



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**April 9, 2008**

**DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hochman called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present: Chair Hochman, Michael Jordan, Lee Moldaver, Roger Schlueter, George Weber, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: None

Liaison members present: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: County Project Clean Water Liaison Rob Almy, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary, Water Resources Specialist Autumn Malanca, Creeks Planner George Thomson, Creeks Program Assistant Liz Smith

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee members Wilson/Jordan to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 12, 2008.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**Ms. Longstreet arrived at 5:40pm.**

## **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Committee members asked questions regarding the current CalTrans project on the Carrillo Street onramp's effect on the Mission Creek Fish Passage Project; and, regarding the status of the catch basin screens.

Mr. Benson reported that the CalTrans project may decrease shade due to tree removal, and that Creeks staff will be looking at project components to improve conditions; and, that the catch basin screen project is ongoing, and staff will present information to the Committee at a future meeting.

Mr. Hochman noted the importance of adhering to the Brown Act and discussing issues included in the current agenda.

Committee members asked questions regarding the Fish Passage physical model.

Mr. Benson reported that the model is located in a lab in Vancouver, BC, and that the consultant has recorded video footage that will be presented to the Committee once available.

Mr. Moldaver reported that he attended the Creeks Division planting day with Citrix at Stevens Park on Friday, March 28; that he was impressed by the enthusiasm and knowledge of Creeks and Parks and Recreation staff; and congratulated the City for partnering with programs such as Youth CineMedia, who attended the planting day and took photographs and recorded video footage and interviews.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **9b. Technical Guidance Manual for Post Construction Storm Water Management – Status Report**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a status report on the production of the City's Technical Guidance Manual for Post Construction Storm Water Management (Manual), and review and discuss three draft tables.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2008

Power Point Presentation – April 2008

Speaker:

Autumn Malanca, Water Resources Specialist

**Mr. Weber arrived at 6:00pm.**

Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding the source of information provided in the tables; and, project thresholds and requirements.

Ms. Malanca reported that information has come from various sources and manuals the consultant has produced for cities all over the United States.

Mr. Benson reported that details on thresholds and requirements will be available when the Draft Manual is presented to the Committee at the May meeting; and, that generally larger or commercial/industrial projects are discretionary.

Committee members asked whether there will be any incentives for property owners to take on voluntary projects.

Ms. Malanca reported that staff is considering incentive options such as expediting project approval, and the possibility of tying into the Built Green program.

Mr. Wilson noted that the Built Green program can be somewhat limiting, and suggested collaborating with other City departments to explore further possibilities.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

**Ms. Falcone left at 6:10pm.**

Committee Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the project tier breakdown; and, who determines BMP requirements.

Mr. Benson reported that the tier system was intended to fit into the City's current project review system; and, that BMP selection depends on the project tier, and once a project is in the discretionary process, applicants will propose, and staff will evaluate appropriate BMPs on a case by case basis.

Mr. Hochman emphasized the importance of the Creeks Division's involvement in the City's review process and implementation of the Manual.

Mr. Jordan encouraged Staff to include incentives for projects that incorporate voluntary items, and asked that Staff provide the Draft Manual to the Committee as soon as possible to allow ample time for Committee Members to review prior to the May meeting.

**9b. Invasive Plant Removal Program**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the Invasive Plant Removal Program.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2008

Power Point Presentation – April 2008

Speaker:

George Thomson, Creeks Planner

**Mr. Moldaver left at 6:40pm.**

Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding funding for the project; the likelihood of treated or chipped arundo re-sprouting; whether staff has communicated with the County or Ventura regarding their respective arundo removal projects; and, how much arundo is located on private property.

Mr. Benson reported that \$75,000 was allocated in the FY 08 Capital budget and \$125,000 in the FY 09 budget, with approximately \$100,000 anticipated for both FY 10 and FY 11.

Mr. Thomson reported that only arundo material above ground will re-sprout; that the arundo will be chipped with a high horsepower drum chipper to reduce the risk of re-sprouting; that staff is working with the County, and will contact Ventura, but that other studies have been on larger scale projects that are not comparable to this project; and, that on Sycamore Creek, three of the five identified arundo populations are located on private property.

Committee members asked questions regarding whether a flood control easement is in place that can be leveraged on private property.

Mr. Benson reported that staff is looking to collaborate with property owners, and will be working closely with County Flood Control and the Fire Department.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

Committee Discussion:

Committee members encouraged staff to use all available tools to reach property owners; to obtain a pesticide exemption based on an amount of time rather than a specific project site; to attack invasive species in addition to arundo in other watersheds and upper watersheds; and, to research and provide information to property owners on suitable native species as alternatives to arundo.

Committee members asked questions regarding the amount of staff time expected to be spent on the project.

Mr. Thomson estimated that less than 10% of his time would be spent on the project.

Mr. Wilson suggested the Committee focus on “proficient control” rather than “elimination”, and noted that controlling arundo in the middle and lower watersheds will have a beneficial impact to everyone regardless of whether it is completely eradicated from the entire watersheds.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion:

Committee members Wilson/Schlueter to adjourn.

Chair Hochman adjourned the meeting at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager